

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/810,680

Examiner

Daniel F. Hajnik

Applicant(s)

KAPLER ET AL.

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/29/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,8-16,22-32,34-40,44-56 and 58-80.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☒ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Canada on 3/15/2004. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).
2. In addition, the applicant filed a request for an updated filing receipt requesting foreign priority for Canadian application 2,461,118. However, the applicant in this request mistakes the foreign application filing date to be 3/15/2003 rather than 3/15/2004.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please cancelled claims 43 and 57.

For claims 58, 63, 64, and 68, please change line 1 to: "The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim ~~57~~ 44,"

For claims 59-60, 65, 67, and 69, please change line 1 to: "The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim"

For claim 66, please change line 1 to: "The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 59, wherein ~~an~~ the association"

Art Unit: 2628

For claims 61 and 62, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 59,”

For claims 70 and 72, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 68, wherein the visualization ~~manager~~ module”

For claim 71, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 68, wherein the visualization ~~manager~~ module”

For claim 73, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 68, wherein the visualization ~~manager~~ module”

For claims 74 and 75, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 73, wherein the visualization ~~manager~~ module”

For claims 76 and 79, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim”

For claim 77, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 74, wherein the visualization ~~manager~~ module”

For claim 78, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 68, wherein the visualization ~~manager~~ module”

For claim 80, please change line 1 to: “The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 68, where the visualization module is further configured to apply a filtering function is applicable to the visual elements”

Authorization for this examiner’s amendment was given in a telephone interview with Grant Trisdall on 10/2/2006.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art does not disclose or render obvious the combination of elements recited in the claims as whole.

Specifically, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the following limitations:

As per claim 1, the claimed:

positioning a respective instant of focus at the intersection region between each of the time tracks and the reference surface at the respective locations of interest, the instant of foci being used for visually distinguishing a range of past time in the temporal domain preceding the instant of foci and a range of future time in the temporal domain after the foci, each of the instant of foci configured for synchronous repositioning along their respective one of the time tracks

As per claim 44, the claimed:

An interactive control component for positioning a respective instant of focus at the intersection region between each of the time tracks and the reference surface at the respective locations of interest, the instant of foci being used for visually distinguishing a range of past time in the temporal domain preceding the instant of foci and a range of future time in the temporal domain after the instant of foci, each of the instant of foci configured for synchronous repositioning along their respective one of the time tracks

The allowable, claimed subject matter appears in the specification on page 26, lines 10-22 and in figures 9, 11-16 as pieces 900, 902, and 904.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Related Prior Art

Art Unit: 2628

NPL Document “The Space-Time Cube Revisited from a Geovisualization Perspective” to

Kraak: teaches the spatial and temporal domain in figure 1 with visual elements and time tracks.

However, Kraak does not teach or suggests the claimed “positioning a respective instant of focus at the intersection region between each of the time tracks and the reference surface at the respective locations of interest, the instant of foci being used for visually distinguishing a range of past time in the temporal domain preceding the instant of foci and a range of future time in the temporal domain after the foci, each of the instant of foci configured for synchronous repositioning along their respective one of the time tracks”.

U.S. Patent No. 6,785,491 to Katayama et al. teaches a time-spatial graph in figure 7. The data in figure 7 does not appear to have any time tracks or elements. In addition, Katayama does not teach or suggests the claimed “positioning a respective instant of focus at the intersection region between each of the time tracks and the reference surface at the respective locations of interest, the instant of foci being used for visually distinguishing a range of past time in the temporal domain preceding the instant of foci and a range of future time in the temporal domain after the foci, each of the instant of foci configured for synchronous repositioning along their respective one of the time tracks”.

U.S. Patent No. 5,623,590 to Becker et al. teaches of an instant of focus control (40) in figure 6 for changing spatially-time-varying data (600) (also see abstract and col 6, lines 50-57).

However, Becker does not teach or suggest “each of the instant of foci configured for synchronous repositioning along their respective one of the time tracks”. This is because Becker

Art Unit: 2628

uses a 2D map for spatially-time-varying data which does not have any time tracks present and thus further cannot synchronously reposition them. Further, there is a lack of motivation to combine this system of visualizing network nodes (col 7, line 21) with the 3D user's tracking system of Kraak.

U.S. Patent No. 7,079,142 to Chiu et al. teaches a time-spatial graph in figure 11 with time tracks and elements (also see col 4, lines 32-35 and lines 42-44). However, Chiu does not teach or suggests the claimed "positioning a respective instant of focus at the intersection region between each of the time tracks and the reference surface at the respective locations of interest, the instant of foci being used for visually distinguishing a range of past time in the temporal domain preceding the instant of foci and a range of future time in the temporal domain after the foci, each of the instant of foci configured for synchronous repositioning along their respective one of the time tracks".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel F. Hajnik whose telephone number is (571) 272-7642. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30A-5:00P).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka J. Chauhan can be reached on (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2628

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Daniel Hari

10/2/06

DFH

Ulka Chauhan

ULKA CHAUHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER